

Message Text

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21 11

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ISO-00

DLOS-06 COA-02 EB-11 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00 COME-00

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01 /254 W

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R 071058Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 466

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, UN, AU

SUBJECT: LOS: POSSIBLE EFFORT INVITE PRG TO PARTICIPATE
IN LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 216882

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR, IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN
OFFICE CHIEF OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT RUDOLF STEINER
NOVEMBER 6, EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OF USG OVER
POSSIBILITY THAT PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERN-
MENT OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM (PRG) MIGHT BE
INVITED IN NEAR FUTURE BY UNGA TO ATTEND LOS CONFERENCE.

2. DRAWING ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL, HE PARTICULARLY
STRESSED LINE OF ARGUMENTATION THAT PRG IS NOT A
STATE BUT POLITICAL GROUP AND THAT ANY INVITATION TO
PRG TO LOS CONFERENCE WOULD CREATEDANGEROUS PRECEDENT
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WHICH WOULD OPEN POSSIBILITY OF ALL KINDS OF INTER-

REFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SMALLER COUNTRIES BY MINORITY POLITICAL OPPOSITIONAL GROUPS ABLE TO GARNER SUPPORT FROM ABROAD. HE ALSO NOTED THAT AUSTRIA, WHICH VIEWS UN AS IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING AUTHORITY OF UN BY OPPOSING ACTIONS WHICH, IT WOULD SEEM, CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO DISILLUSIONMENT IN SOME QUARTERS REGARDING LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF UN.

3. STEINER SAID HE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD US POSITION ON ISSUE BUT INDICATED THAT GOA HAS TENTATIVELY TAKEN POSITION TO ABSTAIN ON ITEM, IF IT COMES UP IN UNGA. AT SUCH TIME AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN AUSTRIAN ABSTENTION AS BEING BASED ON GOA'S DESIRE TO AVOID TAKING SIDES ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN VIEW OF FACT AUSTRIA IS SERIOUSLY BEING CONSIDERED AS SITE FOR ONE STAGE OF LOS CONFERENCE.

4. STEINER SAID US DEMARCHE WOULD RESULT IN HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF AUSTRIAN POSITION BUT HE DID NOT VOLUNTEER AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF SUCH REEXAMINATION. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, PRG, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA09175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731148/aaaabjbn.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 216882
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: POSSIBLE EFFORT INVITE PRG TO PARTICIPATE IN LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, AU, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005